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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim Amendments and Status:

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) A gaming machine comprising:

(A) a gaming unit having a housing, the housing comprising gaming components comprising:

(a) a game interface, the game interface configured to allow a game player to conduct gaming functions;

(b) a game processor located in the housing and in communication with the game interface, the game processor configured to control the game functions and game machine components;

(c) a cash transaction unit, the cash transaction unit configured to accept cash from, and dispense cash to, the game player, the cash transaction unit comprising:

i. a coin acceptor associated with the housing and configured to accept coins from the player;

ii. a coin dispenser associated with the housing; the coin dispenser configured to dispense coins to the player;

iii. a coin hopper, the coin hopper in communication with the coin acceptor and coin dispenser, the coin hopper configured to hold coins until they are to be dispensed to the player;

iv. a coin hopper controller associated with the housing and in communication with the coin acceptor, coin hopper and game processor; the coin hopper controller configured to detect coins inserted into the coin acceptor and to cause coins to be

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dispensed from the coin dispenser when directed by the game processor;

(B) the gaming machine being modified in a retrofit fashion to further comprise a cash-less transaction system comprising:

(a) a cash-less device transaction unit mounted in communication with the game processor, the cashless device transaction unit configured to accept cash-less devices and to transmit and receive information;

(b) an interception and emulation unit mounted in communication with the cash-less device transaction unit and the game processor; wherein the interception and emulation unit is configured to perform the following:

- i. intercept signals from the game processor, whereby the intercepted signals are not received as originally intended;
- ii. emulate signals corresponding to gaming functions and transmit the signals to game components.

32. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 31 wherein the cash-less transaction system further comprises a network communication link between the cash-less transaction system and a remote network, the remote network configured to store cash-less device information.

33. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 32 wherein the remote network and the cash-less transaction system may exchange information regarding the cash-less device.

34. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 31 wherein the interception and emulation unit comprises:

(A) a smart machine interface board input/output controller (SMIB-I/O) interfaced with the game processor, wherein the SMIB-I/O is configured to intercept signals from, and transmit signals to, the game processor;

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(B) a smart machine interface board (SMIB) in communication with the SMIB-I/O, the SMIB configured to receive signals from, and transmit signals to, the SMIB-I/O.

35. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 31 wherein the cash-less transaction system is located in a housing separate from the gaming machine housing.

36 (Original) The gaming machine of claim 31 wherein the cash transaction unit further comprises a paper currency acceptor, the paper currency acceptor in communication with the game processor.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of providing cash-less gaming in a gaming machine retrofitted to accept a cash-less devices comprising:

providing a game machine to a player, wherein the gaming machine is configured to accept currency, and wherein the game machine has been retrofitted to accept cash-less devices;

accepting a cash-less device from the player;

sending a signal from a cash-emulation unit to a game processor, the signal directing the game processor to perform a game function, wherein the cash-emulation unit has been added to the gaming machine in a retrofit manner;

intercepting a signal from the game processor by an interception unit, whereby the signal sent from the game processor does not reach the intended recipient as originally intended by the game processor, wherein the interception unit has been added to the gaming machine in a retrofit manner; and

updating a value represented by the ~~cash-less~~ ~~cashless~~ device, ~~the value a method~~ comprising at least one of the intercepted ~~intercepting~~ and emulated ~~emulating~~ game processor signals.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 further comprising maintaining a network connection between a remote network and at least one of the interception unit and the cash-emulation unit.

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39. (Original) The method of claim 38 further comprising exchanging information about the cashless device over the network connection.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing discussions, it is believed clear that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 31-39 is believed to be in order, and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8323. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10-8-04



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